

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A gear drive mechanism with an anti-rattle device, comprising:
  - a first gear rotatable about a first axis,
  - a second gear rotatable about a second axis, wherein the second gear meshes with the first gear, and the second axis is located at a predetermined distance from the first axis,
  - a first friction disk having a first friction rim surface that is rotationally coupled to the first gear and has a first frusto-conical shape, and
  - a second friction disk having a second friction rim surface that is rotationally coupled to the second gear and has a second frusto-conical shape,
  - wherein the first friction rim surface and the second friction rim surface are in mutual contact with each other and thereby enabled to transmit a friction-based torque between each other, wherein one of the first and second friction rim surfaces is elastically biased against the other friction rim surface.
2. (Currently Amended) The gear drive mechanism of claim 1, wherein at least one of the ~~first and second friction rim surfaces is formed on the respective one of a first and second friction wheel~~ first and second friction disks comprises a friction wheel that is attached to one side of the respective one of the first and second gears.
3. (Currently Amended) The gear drive mechanism of claim 1, wherein the first and second ~~friction rim surfaces have~~ frusto-conical shapes ~~with~~ have respective first and second median radii,



11. (Original) The gear mechanism of claim 1, wherein the first friction rim surface comprises two first parts arranged, respectively, on opposite sides of the first gear, and wherein the second friction rim surface comprises two second parts arranged, respectively, on opposite sides of the second gear.
12. (New) A gear drive mechanism with an anti-rattle device, comprising:
  - a first gear rotatable about a first axis and having a first retaining feature,
  - a second gear rotatable about a second axis, wherein the second gear meshes with the first gear, and the second axis is located at a predetermined distance from the first axis, the second gear having a second retaining feature,
  - a first friction disk having a central opening and a first friction rim surface that is rotationally coupled to the first gear by receiving the first retaining feature in the central opening, the first friction disk having a first frusto-conical shape, and
  - a second friction disk having a central opening and a second friction rim surface that is rotationally coupled to the second gear by receiving the second retaining feature in the central opening, the second friction disk having a second frusto-conical shape,
  - wherein the first friction rim surface and the second friction rim surface are in mutual contact with each other and thereby enabled to transmit a friction-based torque between each other, wherein one of the first and second friction rim surfaces forms an elastic interface with the other friction rim surface.
13. (New) The gear drive mechanism of claim 12, wherein the first and second retaining features comprise protrusions that

extend outwardly from the respective first and second gears and  
are received in the central openings of the first and second  
friction disks.